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## PRESS RELEASE

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# USAID Launches \$9.5 Million Advancing Nutrition Activity to Fight Malnutrition

Abuja – On March 29, 2022, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) launched its two-year \$9.5 million Advancing Nutrition Activity to improve the nutritional health of citizens in Bauchi, Kebbi, and Sokoto states.

The activity will address the immediate and underlying causes of malnutrition, provide technical support, share innovations, and conduct research to improve nutritional outcomes. The launch was also an opportunity to showcase the USAID/Nigeria Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy (2020-2025), which was developed in partnership with the Government of Nigeria and other key stakeholders.

In his remarks, USAID Health, Population, and Nutrition Office Director Paul McDermott said, “Malnutrition has a far-reaching impact on the most vulnerable populations, especially children, adolescents, and women.” He added, “Addressing malnutrition is critical to improving health, education, and economic development.”

According to a 2021 UNICEF report, malnutrition is the underlying cause of nearly half of deaths of children under age five every year in Nigeria.

The activity is led by John Snow, Inc. and JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. and a diverse group of experienced partners, including Helen Keller International.

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Photo Caption: USAID Health, Population, and Nutrition Office Director Paul McDermott with a copy of the USAID/Nigeria Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy (2020-2025)

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